Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar :—" Will not that give some idea of the information now wanted ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" No."

Appointment of a Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

*1494 Q.—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Personal Assistant to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies was on special duty and if so, how long and what are the items of work disposed of by him during the period of his 'special duty';

(b) whether it is a fact that he has been since granted leave ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to appoint a Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies ;

(d) if so, what are the circumstances necessitating such an appointment ; and

(e) the reasons why the matter could not be deferred until the time of 1926–27 budget ?

A.—(a) Yes. The Personal Assistant was on special duty for six months. As regards the work on which he was employed during that period the attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (f) to question 573 asked at the meeting of the Council held on the 29th October 1925. The Government have not yet received a report on the work done during the period.

(b) Yes. But he has since returned to duty.

(c) Yes.

(d) The appointment of Joint Registrar is proposed with a view to affording relief to the Registrar. The department has expanded enormously during the last five years and the work of the Registrar has increased both in volume and complexity. It is a physical impossibility for the Registrar, without substantial relief, to find time to deal adequately with the numerous complicated problems which are constantly coming before him, to indicate and control new lines of development and to tour throughout the Presidency in order to keep in touch with the work of his subordinates, of the financing banks and of the more important special type of societies. More money is coming into the movement than it has been able to absorb and is mostly in the shape of short-term loans while the demand now is for long-term loans. The regulation of the financial arrangements of the movement as a whole requires the constant attention of the Registrar in order to ensure the safety and soundness of the system. He has to control and co-ordinate the work of the Deputy Registrars in regard to non-credit work. Moreover, there are and always will be many problems connected with non-credit activities which have to be settled on lines applicable to the Presidency as a whole and not

2nd March 1926]

merely with reference to local conditions. To enable the Registrar to cope with all these items of work and to allow co-operation to attain its natural growth the post of Joint Registrar is proposed to be created. The new officer will take over certain definite portions of the Registrar's duties subject to the Registrar's general control. He will undertake work which, though essential for the development of the movement, cannot now be adequately dealt with by the Registrar owing to the extreme pressure of other demands upon his time and energy.

(e) The appointment will be sanctioned only after the budget of 1926–27 has been passed by the Council.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" With reference to clause (e) the result is here about the appointment of the jont registrar. May I ask the hon. Minister why, when he promulgated his recent scheme of reorganization of the department, he did not ask for this particular appointment ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" The two subjects are quite different."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" The whole department was reorganized very recently. It was then given out that it would be a self-contained and complete arrangement. The Public cannot be so very dull as not to be able to understand it. May I know definitely why it was that this appointment was not foreshadowed on that occasion ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" As I already said, the two subjects are quite different."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" I am absolutely unconvinced they are different. May I know what new conditions have arisen since the recent reorganization to justify the creation of this costly new appointment ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" These are two separate branches. One was considered then and the other was not."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" I am sorry I am not still able to make him understand (Swarajists' Laughter). I shall refer to the printed answer which he himself has given. Perhaps, that will make him understand the matter. At page 8 the argument is given and it is stated :

'The regulation of the financial arrangements of the movement as a whole requires the constant attention of the Registrar in order to ensure the safety and soundness of the system.'

" May I know how the new joint Registrar is going to have the difficult question of financial arrangement managed ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—" That is a long statement which will have to be answered more outside the Council than here. It will take a long time."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" I thought the Council is at least interested in this matter as much as the outside public and competent to deal with it and that it is not one which should be answered only outside the Council. If the hon. Minister is not prepared to answer this question, I